

The board believes that time is a variable in the educational process and that students may need different amounts of instructional time in order to fulfill the educational goals and objectives of the board. The board also recognizes that the school day and school year should be planned in such a manner as to facilitate student learning and to permit an accurate assessment of student achievement in scheduled testing periods.

A. INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

The board will approve the length of the school day, which may vary from school to school. The “instructional” day includes only those hours a student is assigned to a teacher for the primary purpose of instruction. Breaks in the instructional day for changing classes, homeroom, lunch, pep rallies, and similar non-instructional activities are not part of the instructional day and are not considered instructional hours.

Interruptions of instructional time and time off task must be kept to a minimum. The principal is responsible for ensuring that instructional time is maintained and protected in the school schedule. Each teacher is responsible for ensuring optimal use of instructional time in his or her classes. School personnel are encouraged to seek creative means of reducing transitional time and scheduling non-instructional activities. A proposal for alternative scheduling of classes or other such strategies may be a part of a school improvement plan.

B. SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school board will establish a school calendar that is consistent with the requirements of G.S. 115C-84.2 and any other applicable legal requirements.

The board may offer supplemental or additional educational programs or activities outside the adopted school calendar.

1. Waiver of Opening or Closing Dates

Upon a showing of good cause, as defined by G.S. 115C-84.2(d), the board may seek a waiver of the opening date from the State Board of Education. The board will revise the closing date only if necessary to comply with the minimum requirements for instructional days or instructional time.

2. Converting to a Year-Round Calendar

The board may initiate or review recommendations from the superintendent or a school improvement team for modifying a school’s traditional school calendar to a year-round calendar. The superintendent and individual schools are encouraged to obtain input from teachers and other personnel as well as from the community in developing proposals for modifying the school calendar to year-round. A year-

round school may be included as a part of a school improvement plan.

Legal References: P.L. 108-447, div. J, title I, sec. 111 (codified as a statutory note to 36 U.S.C. 106(d)); G.S. 115C-12(33), -36, -47, -84.2, -105.21(b)(2), -238.31, -288; State Board of Education Policy BEPL-001; *North Carolina Public Schools Benefits and Employment Policy Manual* (most current version), North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/district-human-capital/employee-policy>

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530)

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